

Colorado has school districts and communities that are leading the Nation in piloting innovative models that put healthy eating and active living at the top of their priority list.

I am thrilled that the bill we passed today builds on and supports the work that my State is already doing, while challenging Colorado and other States to go even further, to eliminate childhood hunger, to tackle childhood obesity, to emphasize wellness, and to build a healthy foundation for all kids.

Chairman LINCOLN, Ranking Member CHAMBLISS, thank you for your leadership and diligent work on this historic bill. Passage of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act is an example of the Senate doing exactly what it should—delivering for our kids.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

Mr. LEMIEUX. Madam President, I rise to speak this afternoon on the floor of the Senate about an issue that is very critically important to the people of this country, and that is our relationship with Latin America.

This weekend, the new President of Colombia will be sworn in—Juan Manuel Santos—and he follows a great leader in Colombia, President Uribe, who, in my mind, is the Abraham Lincoln of that country. He kept that country unified at a very difficult time, while it was wracked with what was then a civil war. Eight years ago, President Uribe brought the country back together. He was able to fight the FARC, keep the country from falling into a narcoterrorist state, and has brought stability to Colombia. They are perhaps our best friend in Latin America.

Colombia is a vibrant, beautiful country, full of good people, with a democracy that now works. This last election is a tribute to President Uribe. On behalf of my State of Florida and the Senate, I rise to congratulate President Uribe and the great work he did on behalf of Colombia, as well as to welcome in President Santos.

Our relationship with Colombia is very important. They are a key trading partner to the United States and a key trading partner to my home State of Florida. When you are walking around and perhaps seeing some fresh flowers—there are some here in this Congress—but wherever you are in this country, there is a very good chance those flowers came from Colombia. Seventy percent of the flowers we have in this country that are purchased by local florists come from Colombia, and they come through Miami on their way to your local florists.

We have a great trading relationship. That is why, in 2006, we entered into a

free trade agreement with Colombia. Unfortunately, we have not ratified that agreement. Along with the free trade agreements for Panama and South Korea, they have languished without approval. The President spoke about this in his State of the Union Address—the importance of passing these free trade agreements—yet we still don't have those agreements before us here in the Congress. For one reason or another, they have yet to be ratified.

There is a lot of talk in this Chamber about the creation of jobs, and that that should be our focus. Well, passing these free trade agreements would get Americans back to work. Right now those countries basically have free trade with us but we don't have free trade with them. Ninety percent of all Colombian products sold in the United States enter our country duty free. Yet American goods face tariffs of up to 35 percent when entering Colombia.

According to the Latin America Trade Coalition, in 2008, more than 6,000 small- and medium-sized American businesses exported to Colombia. If we were to pass the Colombia Free Trade Agreement, more than 80 percent of U.S. consumer and manufacturing products and most U.S. farm goods would immediately enter Colombia duty free.

Implementing this treaty could increase our gross domestic product by \$2.5 billion. I say to my friends in the majority, if they want to create jobs in this country—and that certainly should be what we are focused most on in this most troubling economy—let's pass these free-trade agreements. Let's do it when we get back from the break; let's do it in September. We should have already done it.

When I met with President Uribe in January of this year and talked to him about a variety of issues, he looked at me painfully and said: Why is our friend, the United States of America, not ratifying this agreement?

Our greatest friend in the region, a bright spot of democracy, a President who has fought the narcoterrorists, stabilized this country as a bulwark against Venezuela and all the threats that posed to our region, and we can't ratify this agreement? It is a shame. It is something we need to do. We need to do it as well as ratify the agreement with Panama, as well as the one with South Korea.

REMEMBERING REAR ADMIRAL LEROY COLLINS, JR.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Madam President, I rise today to give special recognition to the life and work of a great Floridian who was tragically killed in Florida unexpectedly just a few weeks ago. RADM LeRoy Collins, Jr., is the son of our former Governor, Governor LeRoy Collins. He was an admiral in the Navy. He was the head of the Veterans Affairs Division in the State of Florida where I had the opportunity to

personally work with him when I served the Governor. A native of Tallahassee, FL, he received his commission from the Naval Academy in June 1956 and began a long career in the Navy.

His first tour was aboard the amphibious transport USS *Calvert*, followed by the Submarine Officer's Basic Course in Groton, CT, and he later served abroad the U.S. submarine *Chivo*.

Through hard work, dedication and sacrifice, LeRoy earned the rank of rear admiral.

Admiral Collins served as an analyst for naval intelligence in Washington, DC, and as a ballistic missile weapons officer aboard the nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine USS James Madison. After a brief tour working missile test operations at the Naval Ordnance Training Unit, in Cape Canaveral, he transferred to the Navy Reserve in 1966.

While a naval reservist, Admiral Collins served as commanding officer of the coastal minesweeper USS Thrush and later as commander of various Navy Reserve submarine units. During his time, he was the Navy's liaison to the Florida National Guard and also commanding officer of the Navy liaison unit at U.S. Readiness Command, headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base, FL.

The admiral served as Commander, Naval Reserve Readiness Command, Region 8 and later as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Reserve) for Logistics, Pentagon, until his retirement from the Navy Reserve as a two-star rear admiral in October, 1990.

Admiral Collins also had a career in business. He spent time with the Florida Power & Light Company and IBM. He was the founding president of Financial Transaction Systems, Inc., and president of Telecredit Service Center, Inc. In addition, he served as president of Dynamic Realty of Tampa, Inc., was chairman of Gateway Holdings, Inc., and served as president of the Armed Forces Financial Network.

He was a great Floridian. The Collins family is perhaps Florida's first family. Governor Collins is perhaps our greatest Governor. Admiral Collins upheld the tradition of his family that traces its roots all the way back to the founding of Florida. The property upon which our Governor's Mansion sits was given by the Collins family. Their home, The Grove, sits right next door.

Admiral Collins was in many ways everything you would expect of a great Floridian. He was genteel, he was kind, he was smart. Public service mattered to him.

On behalf of the people of Florida, on behalf of the Senate, I extend our condolences to his wife Jane and their family on the passing of a truly great Floridian. He and they are in our thoughts and prayers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.